Waterfowl Habitat Planning and Turnkey Management

220 Pimlico Drive Brandon, MS 39042 Phone: (601) 591-2084 Email: <a href="mailto:ramsey@getducks.com">ramsey@getducks.com</a>

www.GetDucks.com

September 2, 2003

Stephen W. Gard U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service North Mississippi Refuges Complex P.O. Box 1070 Grenada, MS 38902

Dear Steve,

Thanks again for excellent accommodations and for the opportunity to provide consultation services to North Mississippi Refuges Complex. All of the refuges looked absolutely wonderful and it was great to see those areas that we labored so hard to restore after they'd grown some.

Attached are final report including clean copies of field maps, in duplicate. Total invoice came to \$2,629.00, less than anticipated.

I had to dig through old ESI files to get a map of Coldwater that had not been provided by Joint Venture. As indicated in the report, there are problem areas as well as successes – the southwest corner of Tallahatchie NWR, Goss, Staten, south Watts and Balducci. ESI needs to critically evaluate those areas and consider replanting. Because of severe herbaceous competition, especially buck vines, intensive site preparation is necessary for ensured success.

Any questions or comments regarding the report, or if I may be of service to you in the future, please do not hesitate to call.

Best regards,

D. Ramsey Russell, Jr. Certified Wildlife Biologist Mississippi Registered Forester

**Attachments** 



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#### QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF ESI REFORESTATION SUCCESS ON NMRC PROPERTIES

Prepared: September 8, 2003

For Client: Mr. Stephen W. Gard North Mississippi Refuges Complex U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service P.O. Box 1070 Grenada, MS 38902

During the month of August 2003, Get Ducks, LLC, estimated post-plant success of hardwoods on 32 North Mississippi Refuges Complex properties planted FY 2002 pursuant to cooperative agreement with Environmental Synergy, Inc. Field methods consisted of visiting each site listed and making visual estimates of current stocking (i.e., survival). Where necessary sites were traversed along transects running perpendicular to land contour and observations were recorded at intervals. All on-site woody stems, whether perceived as planted or naturalized, were considered during the evaluation. Stocking was predicated on original density of 302 stems per acre.

Dense, green herbaceous cover likely precluded complete detection of seedlings. Seedlings are only recently beginning to crown above the herbaceous cover in most areas. With exceptions noted below, increased stocking of areas perceived as being sparsely regenerated, especially those patches located within tracts that are otherwise well stocked, will occur in due time through growth of seedlings not yet detected, natural regeneration or both. Final quantitative assessment is best deferred until five years post-plant; may differ from qualitative observation herein provided.

Summary of estimated survival is provided in Table 1. Reference to attached field maps may best elucidate within-site variability of stocking. Areas identified as requiring ESI's immediate attention are the southwest corner of Tallahatchie NWR, (estimated survival < 5% due to impounded water); the easternmost most FmHA Balducci (estimated survival is < 10%); FmHA Staten (estimated survival is 20%); southern tract of FmHA Watts (estimated survival ≤ 25%); FmHA Goss (≤ 30% estimated survival). The northeast corner of FmHA Wilkins (estimated survival ≤ 30%).

Herbaceous competition is severe. Successful replant efforts should likely entail intensive site preparation to include hipped rows (or modified bedding for row integrity), in combination with over the row band applications of herbicides.

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Table 1. Summary of qualitative evaluation of ESI-related reforestation projects located on North Mississippi Refuges Complex properties. Get Ducks, LLC, August 2003.

Property Name	Estimated Survival	Comments
Tallahatchie NWR	≥ 70%	Area described as situated in the southwest corner of
(formerly Bear Lake		Tallahatchie NWR (#11 on attached field map) has
Unit)		standing water. In the northern portion of this area,
Field map numbers 1	90%	where most hardwood regeneration occurs, the water is
2	80%	as deep as 14 inches. The southern portion of the area
3	90%	is void of hardwood regeneration and consists instead of
4	75%	cattails and bullgrass. Remaining areas are excellently
5	75%	stocked, with some trees achieving 4+ ft heights.
6	95%	Species observed include Nuttall, water and willow
7	75%	oaks, persimmon, green ash bald cypress and
8	70%	cherrybark oak.
9	45%	
10	85%	
11	< 5%	
12	35%	
13	65%	
Dahomey NWR	≥ 50%	Regeneration success and tree growth is much better in
		the northern than in the southern portion of the planted
		area. A preponderance of light seeded species in
		nearby forest areas will eventually mitigate any
		perceived stocking deficits.
Coldwater NWR	≥ 50%	Dispersal of seed by wind and water will likely ensure
(formerly Black		adequate stocking of these areas, to willow if nothing
Bayou Unit)		else; however, fields located on the southeast portion of
		the planted area were less than 40% stocked. The area
		located in the south central portion of the area had
		sufficient stems per acre, but species composition was
D-14		comprised primarily of lead plant and button bush.
Balducci	4.400/	The easternmost Balducci is an extremely hydric site
Refer to map East	< 10%	and is nearly void of regeneration in the lower areas.
West	≥ 60%	Successful regeneration may depend on bald cypress
Poor (60 pores)	> 500/	and/or willow plantings
Bass (69 acres)	≥ 50%	Accessed from the west. Easternmost portion (not
Page (279 cares)	> 500/	planted) impounded in water.
Bass (278 acres)	≥ 50%	Center most portion is best. Natural regeneration will
		likely fill in remaining areas that are at this time
Powling	< FO0/	seemingly understocked.
Bowling	≤ 50%	Regeneration very heavy along river, increasingly
		sparse away from river; heavy stocking of winged elms.
		Other species green ash and persimmon. Very heavy
		buck vine component.

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Table 1. (Continued) Summary of qualitative evaluation of ESI-related reforestation projects located on North Mississippi Refuges Complex properties. Get Ducks, LLC, August 2003.

Property Name	Estimated Survival	Comments
Butler	≥ 80%	Very heavy stocking of both planted and naturalized
		species. Species include oaks, sweetgum, green ash,
		cottonwood and persimmon. This property is unposted;
		accessed from the north.
Carmicle	≥ 70%	Excellent stand of planted hardwoods.
Goss	30%	This area was evaluated relatively extensively.
		Regeneration seems concentrated most along borders
		and ditches where there is a preponderance of
		naturalized regeneration; with the exception of the
		northwest portion, where stocking is outstanding,
		establishment is spotty across the remaining tract.
Hester	≥ 50%	
Kolle	70%	Excellent stand of ESI-planted hardwoods.
Lindsey (160)	≥ 70%	Regeneration consists of naturalized, prexisiting
		planted, and ESI-planted hardwoods.
Lindsey (40)	≥ 50%	Regeneration consists of naturalized, prexisiting
		planted, and ESI-planted hardwoods.
Lindsey (205)	≥ 65%	Regeneration consists of naturalized, prexisiting
		planted, and ESI-planted hardwoods.
Mabus	≥ 70%	n/a
Mackey	≥ 45%	Area situated in northeast property is almost entirely
		void of hardwood regeneration. Prevalent species
		include willow, lead plant, Nuttall oak, green ash.
McClure	≥ 55%	Comprised of two separate tracts, each looks
		outstanding in terms of regeneration.
Pennington 360	≥ 50%	An area in the south central portion of the tract has 10-
		20% survival. Naturalization will likely fill the void in due
		time. Species include Nuttall oak, green ash, sumac,
		willow, and pine.
Powell	≥ 50%	Heavy eastern bacharris component.
Ray	≥ 55%	Best regeneration located on westernmost portion of
		tract. Some naturalized pine present.
Savage	≥ 80%	Very heavy stocking of both planted and naturalized
		species. Species include oaks, sweetgum, green ash.
		cottonwood and persimmon. This property is unposted;
		planted area best accessed from the north.
Starr 350	45%	Regeneration seemed predominately natural
		regeneration. Species included sweetgum, winged elm
		green ash, willow, willow and Nuttall oaks. Some
		naturalized pine present.



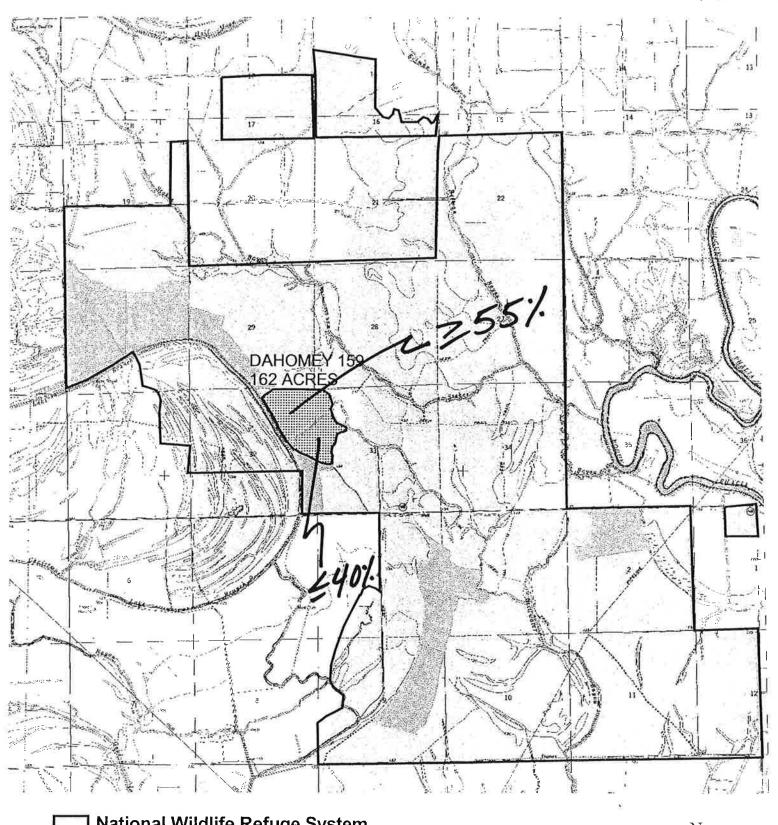
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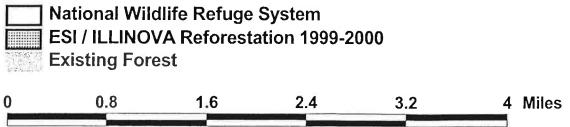
Table 1. (Continued) Summary of qualitative evaluation of ESI-related reforestation projects located on North Mississippi Refuges Complex properties. Get Ducks, LLC, August 2003.

Property Name	Estimated Survival	Comments
Starr 750	45%	Regeneration seemed predominately natural regeneration. Species included sweetgum, winged elm green ash, willow, willow and Nuttall oaks
Staten	≤ 20%	Few planted seedlings observed. Majority of estimate comprised of naturalized green ash, persimmon, and button bush.
Trainor	≥ 85%	The tract looks excellent and consists primarily of oaks and ash from both previous and ESI-related planting. Vehicular access from the east is presently blocked with cross ties.
Walker	≥ 75%	The tract looks excellent and consists primarily of oaks and ash from both previous and ESI-related planting.
Watts	≤ 25%	The southernmost tract was especially poor with 20% stocking or less. Stocking seemed slightly greater on the northernmost tract despite heavy vine component.
Whaley	≥ 65%	Regeneration increasingly heavy as move toward river. Very heavy component of naturalized species, including some pine.
Wilkins	≥ 70%	With exception of one problem area, regeneration here is spectacular: pre-existing naturally and artificially regenerated oaks and light seeded species intermixed with generally very good stocking of ESI-planted hardwoods throughout. Area situated in northwest portion of property has ≤ 30% stocking consisting almost entirely of planted green ash. Conspicuously absent in this area are naturalized hardwood trees, which are densely established elsewhere adjacent to and surrounding this area.

## ESI / ILLINOVA REFORESTATION PROJECT DAHOMEY NWR

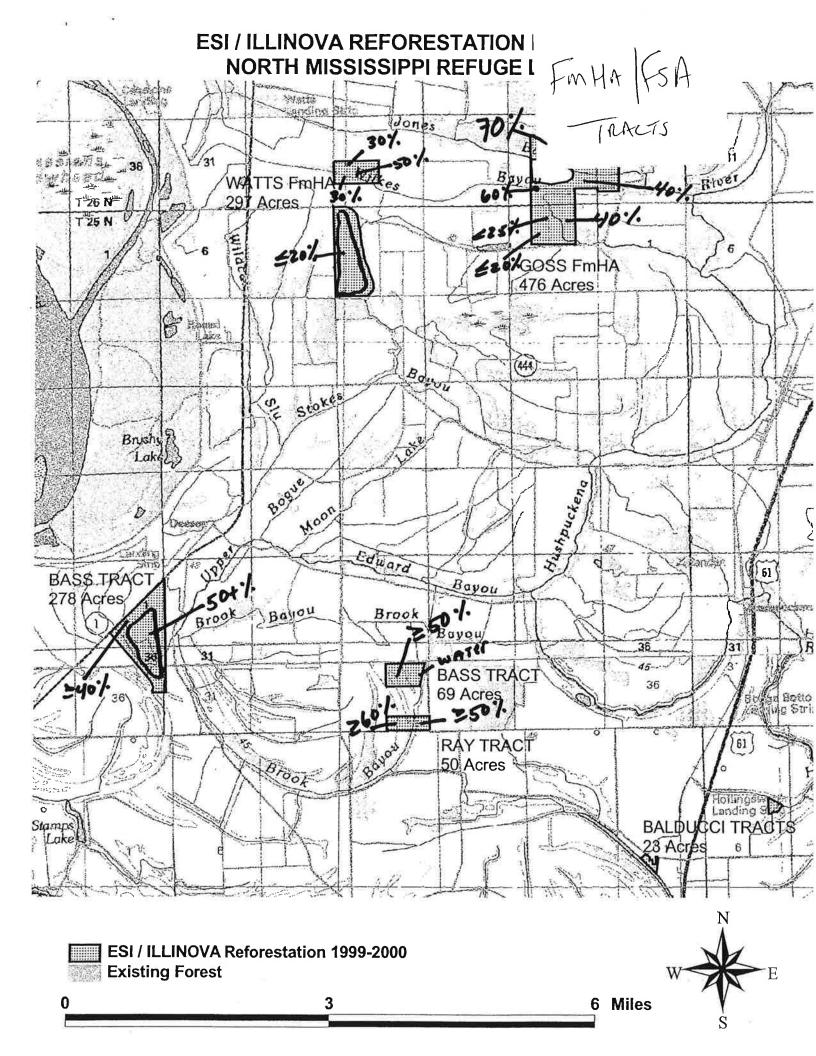
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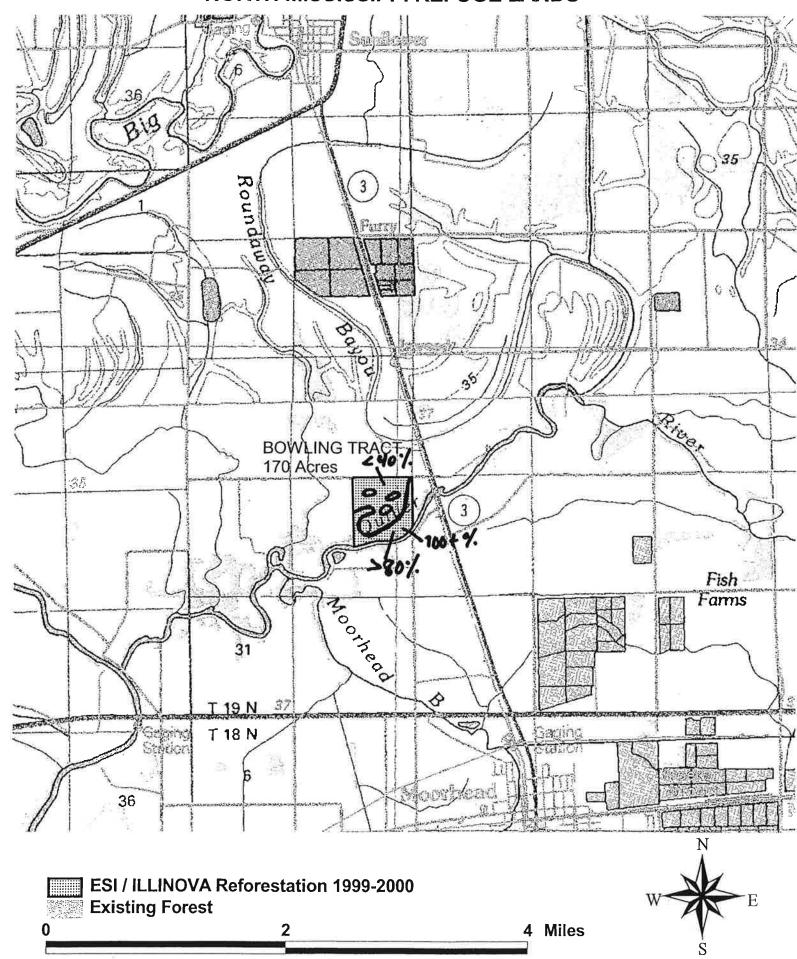


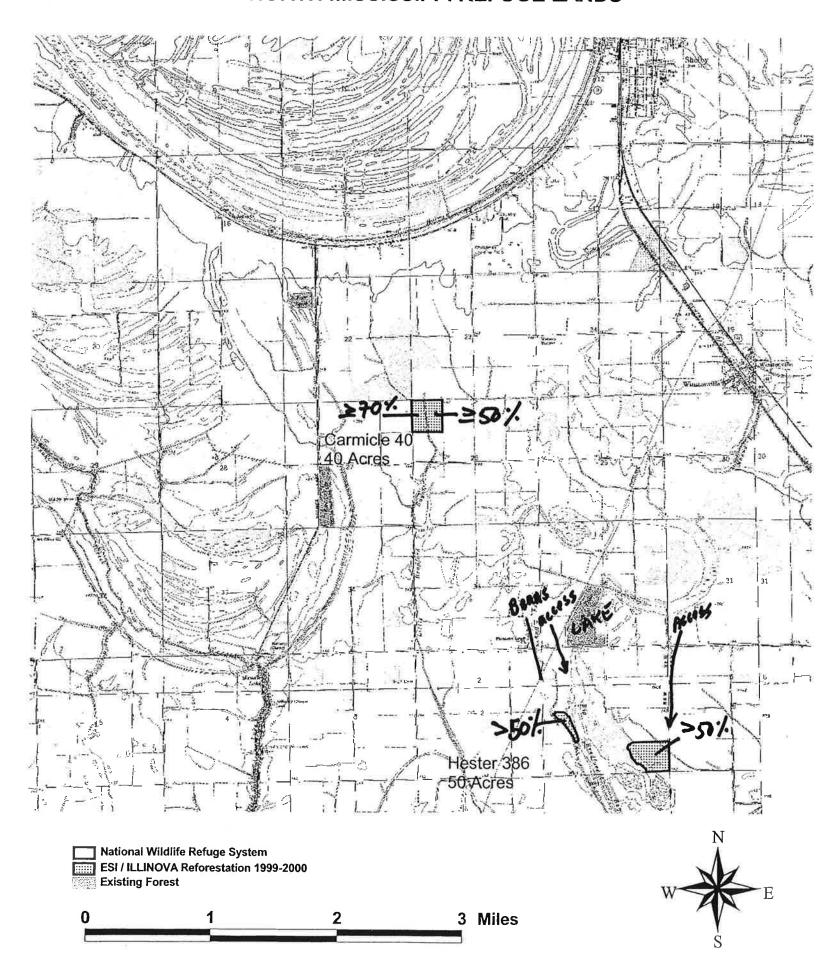


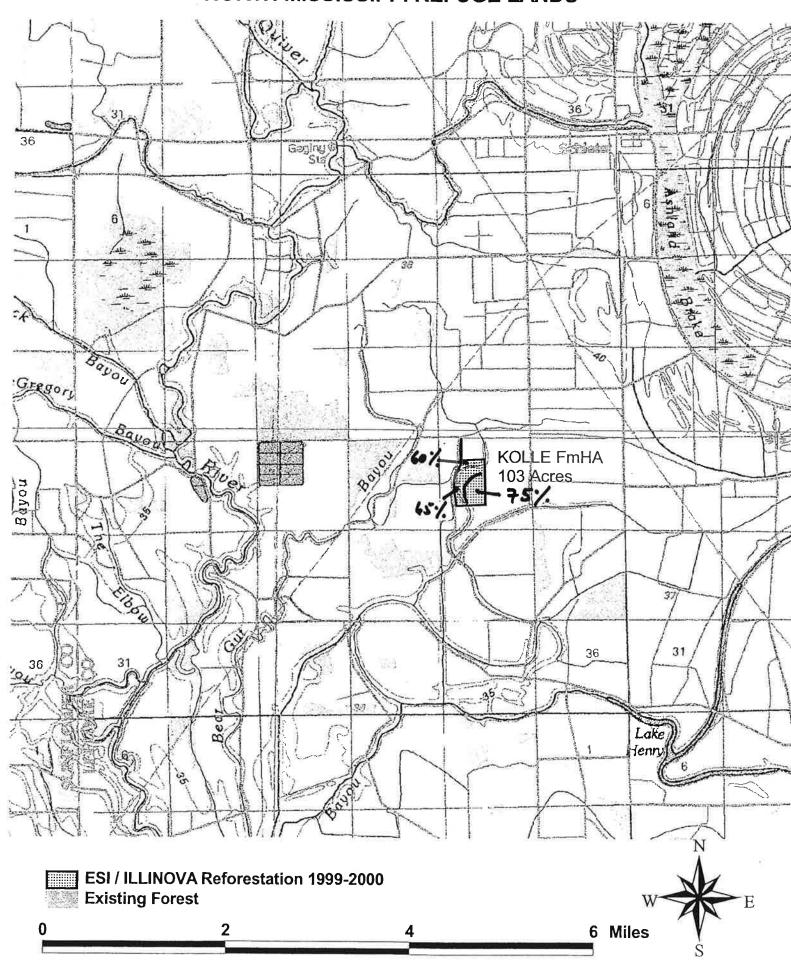


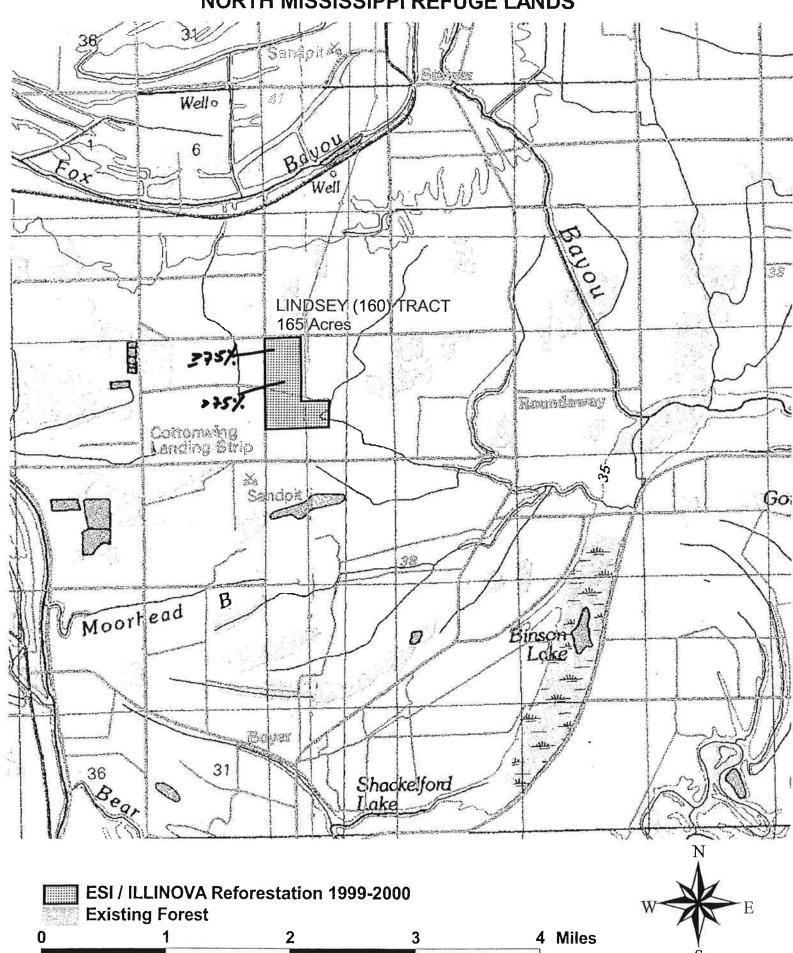
## **ESI / ILLINOVA REFORESTATION PROJECT** NORTH MISSISSIPPI REFUGE LANDS inigina Hardtime Well Lake TALLAHATCH E NWR BEAR LAKE 759 Acres 43 STATEN TRAC Well Indligo W/sillogr 21 Acres Landing Blackhawk Bayou Mound Bayou National Wildlife Refuge System ESI / ILLINOVA Reforestation 1999-2000 Existing Forest 4 Miles

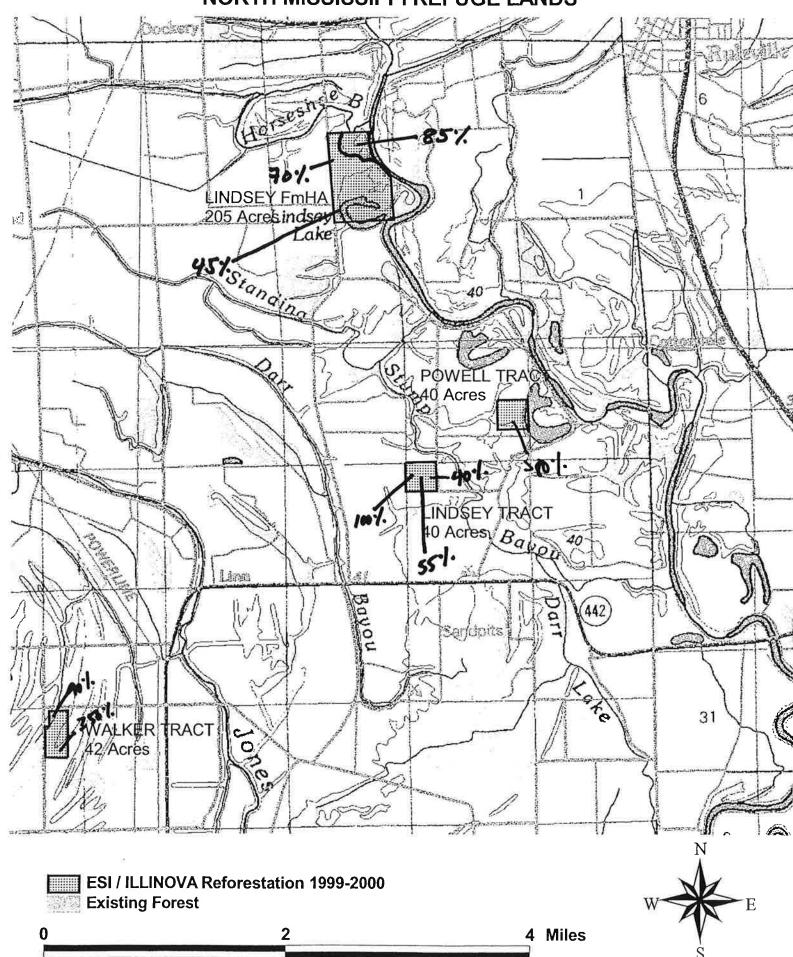


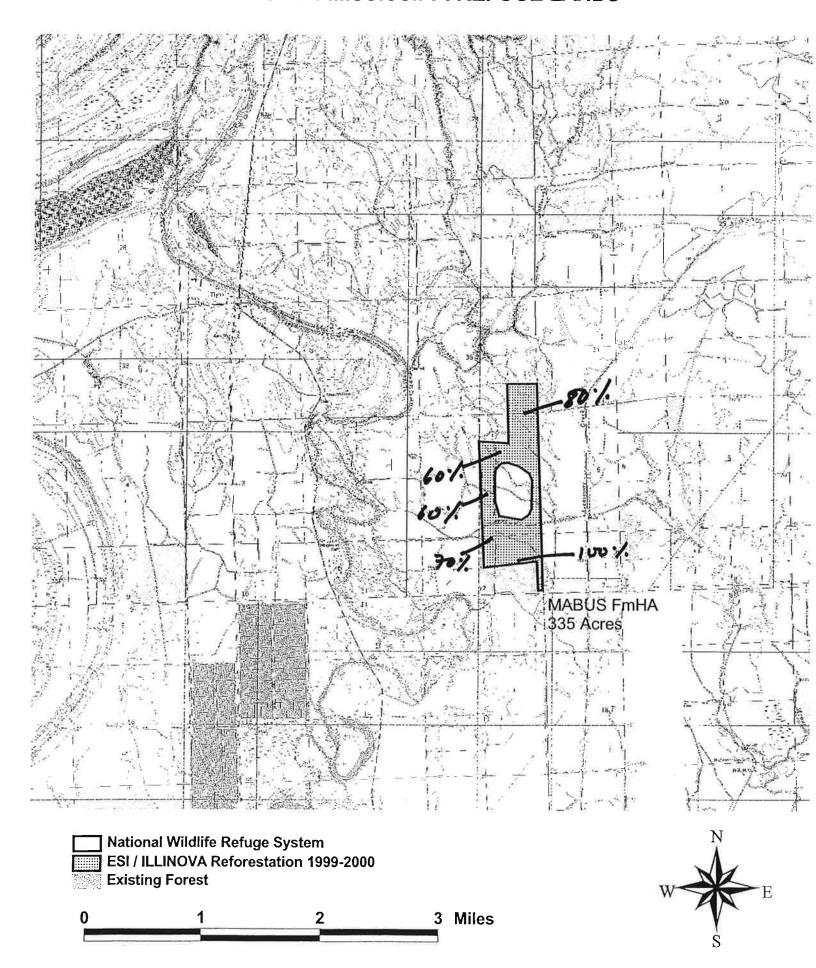


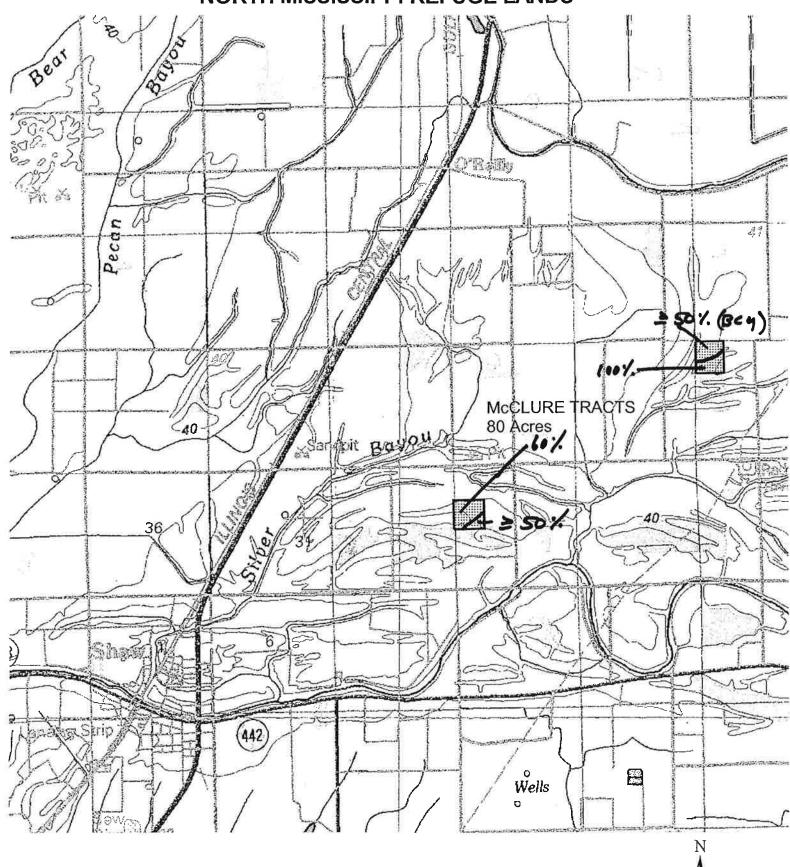








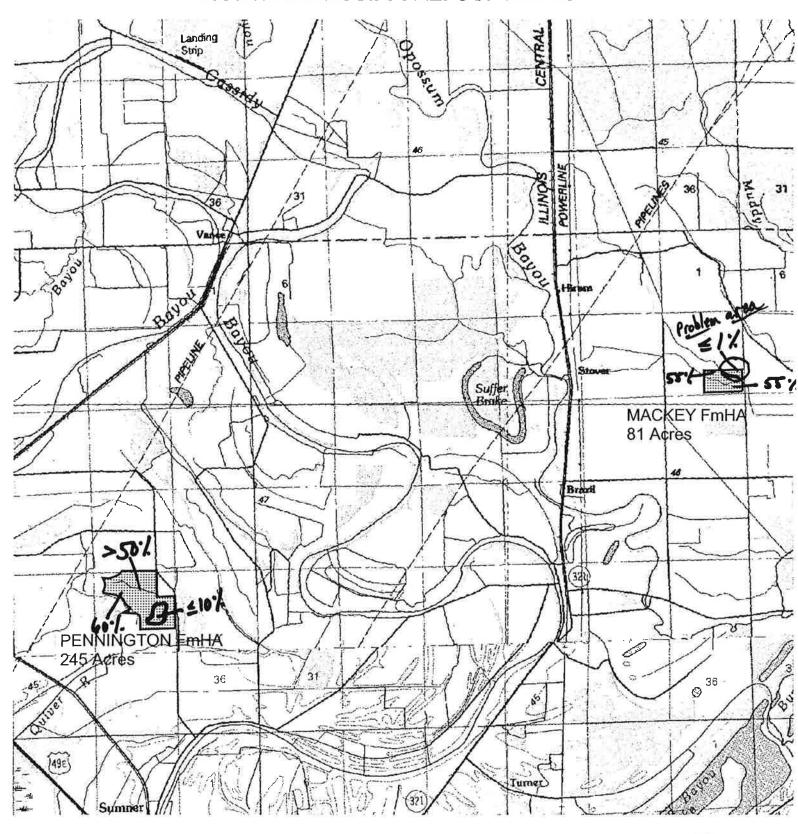


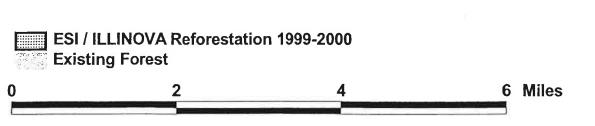


ESI / ILLINOVA Reforestation 1999-2000
Existing Forest

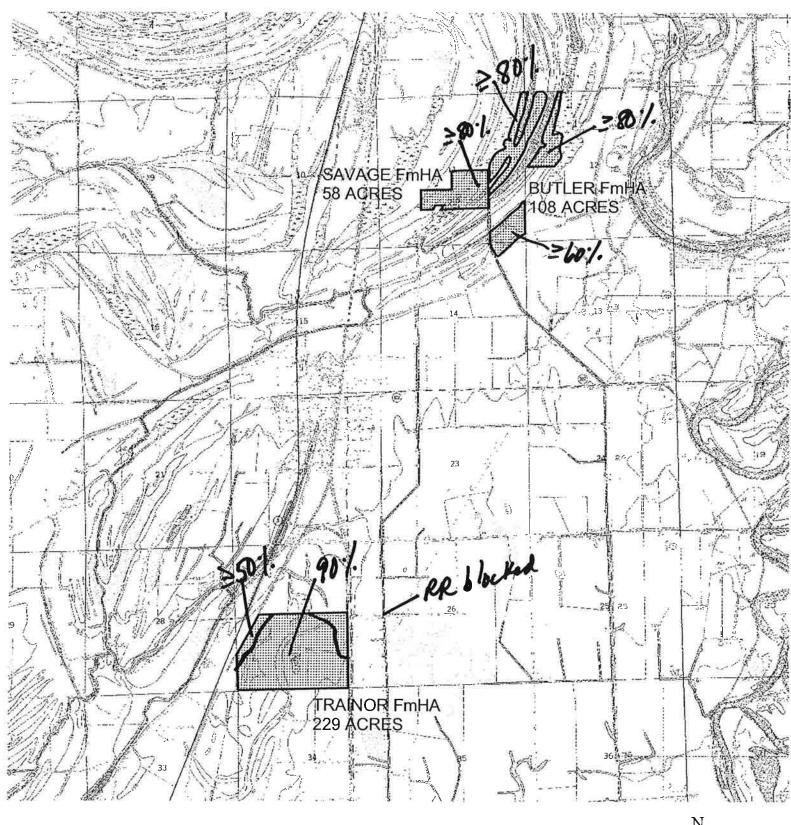
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4 Miles

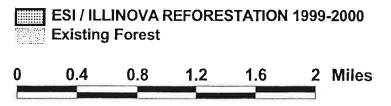




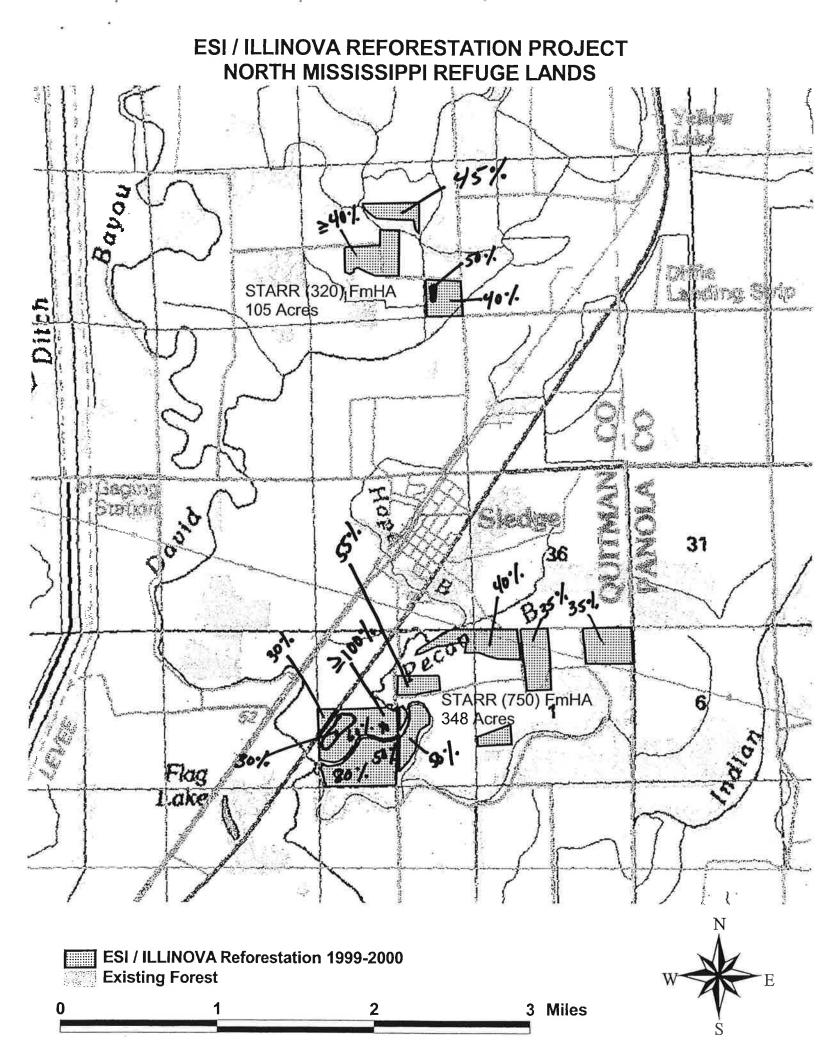


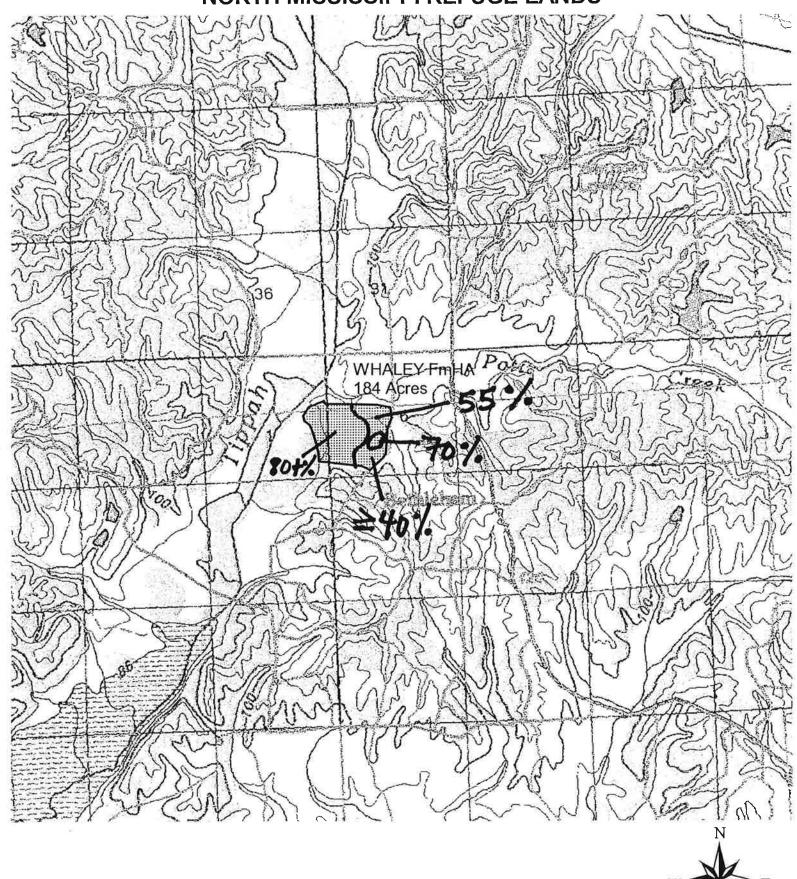












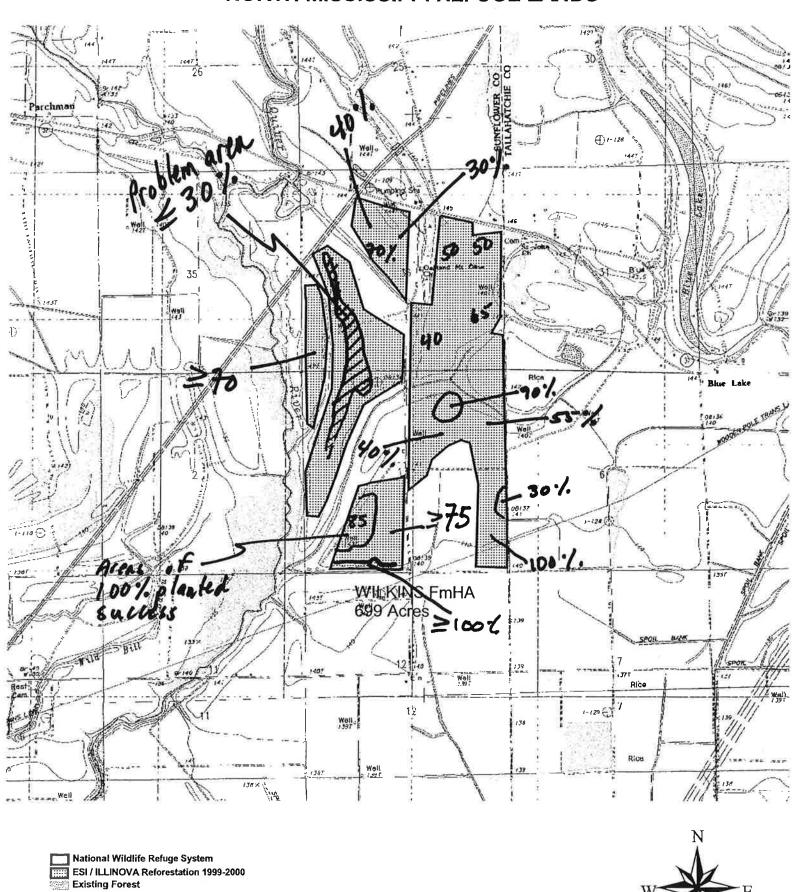
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ESI / ILLINOVA Reforestation 1999-2000

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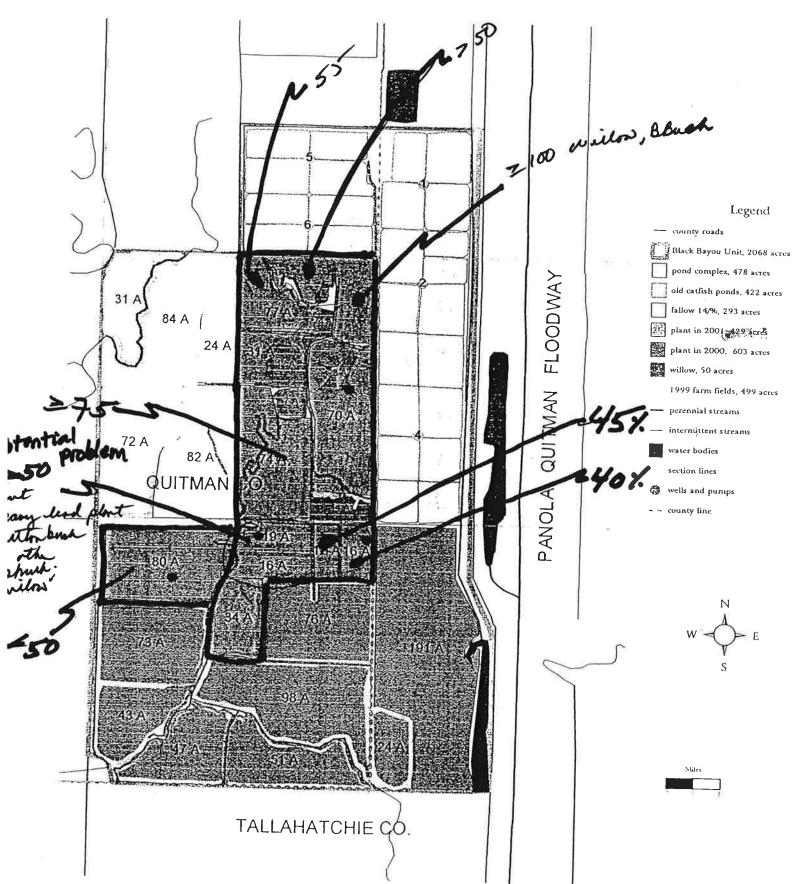
0.9

Existing Forest



2 Miles

# COLDWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE QUITMAN, AND TALLAHATCHIE COUNTIES, MISSISSIPPI PROPOSED TREE PLANTING SCHEDULE FOR 2000-2001





220 Pimiico Drive Brandon, MS 39042 Phone: (601) 591-2084 Email: <u>ramsey@getducks.com</u> www.GetDucks.com

#### QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF ESI REFORESTATION SUCCESS ON NMRC PROPERTIES

Prepared: September 8, 2003

For Client:
Mr. Stephen W. Gard
North Mississippi Refuges Complex
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1070
Grenada, MS 38902

During the month of August 2003, Get Ducks, LLC, estimated post-plant success of hardwoods on 32 North Mississippi Refuges Complex properties planted FY 2002 pursuant to cooperative agreement with Environmental Synergy, Inc. Field methods consisted of visiting each site listed and making visual estimates of current stocking (i.e., survival). Where necessary sites were traversed along transects running perpendicular to land contour and observations were recorded at intervals. All on-site woody stems, whether perceived as planted or naturalized, were considered during the evaluation. Stocking was predicated on original density of 302 stems per acre.

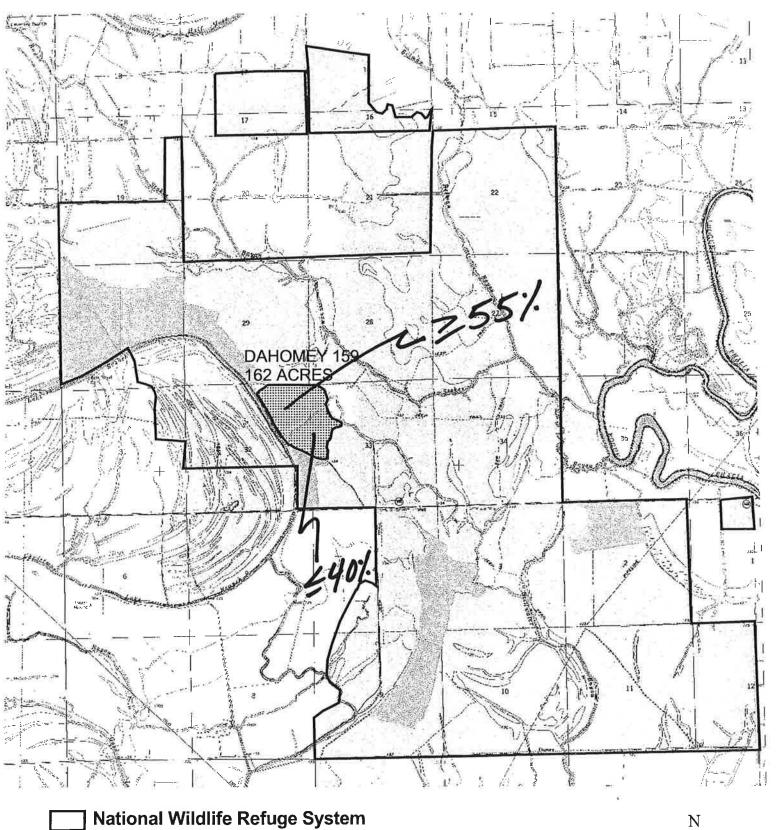
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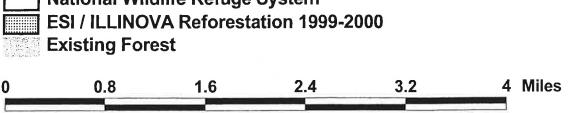
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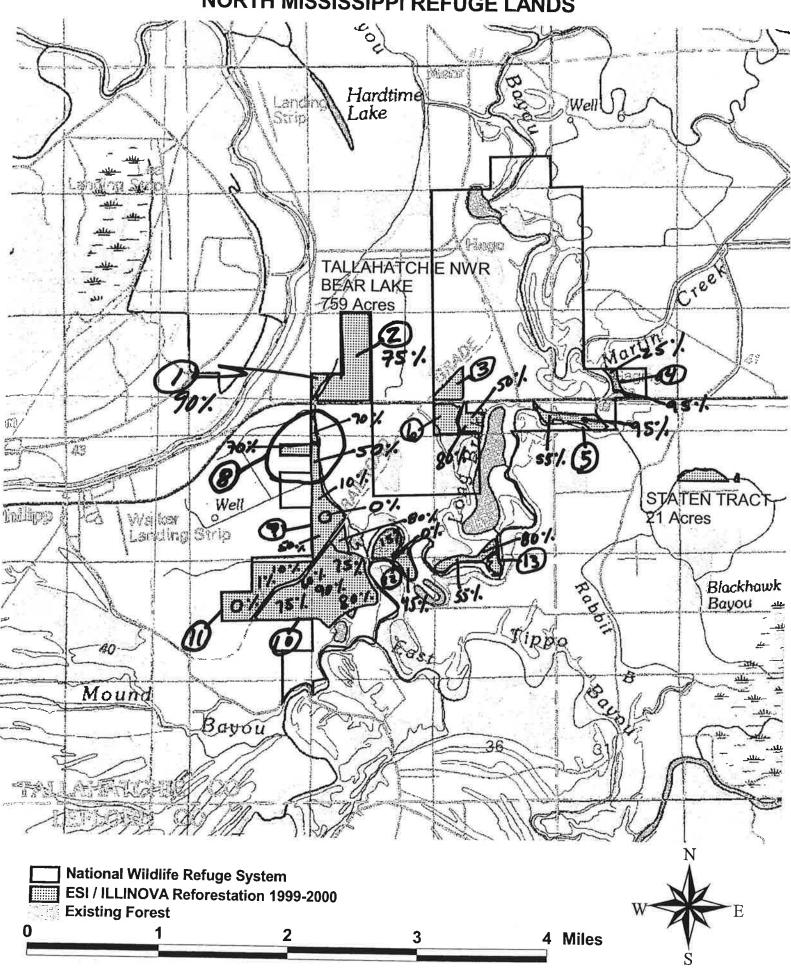
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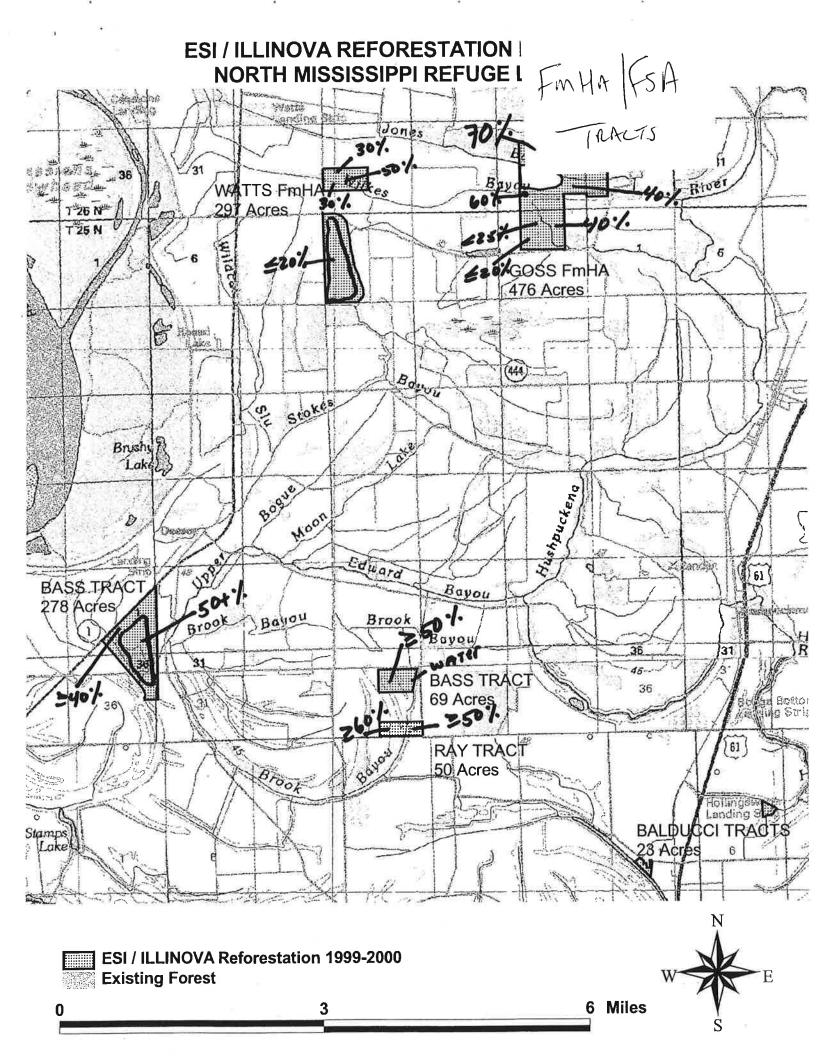
# ESI / ILLINOVA REFORESTATION PROJECT DAHOMEY NWR

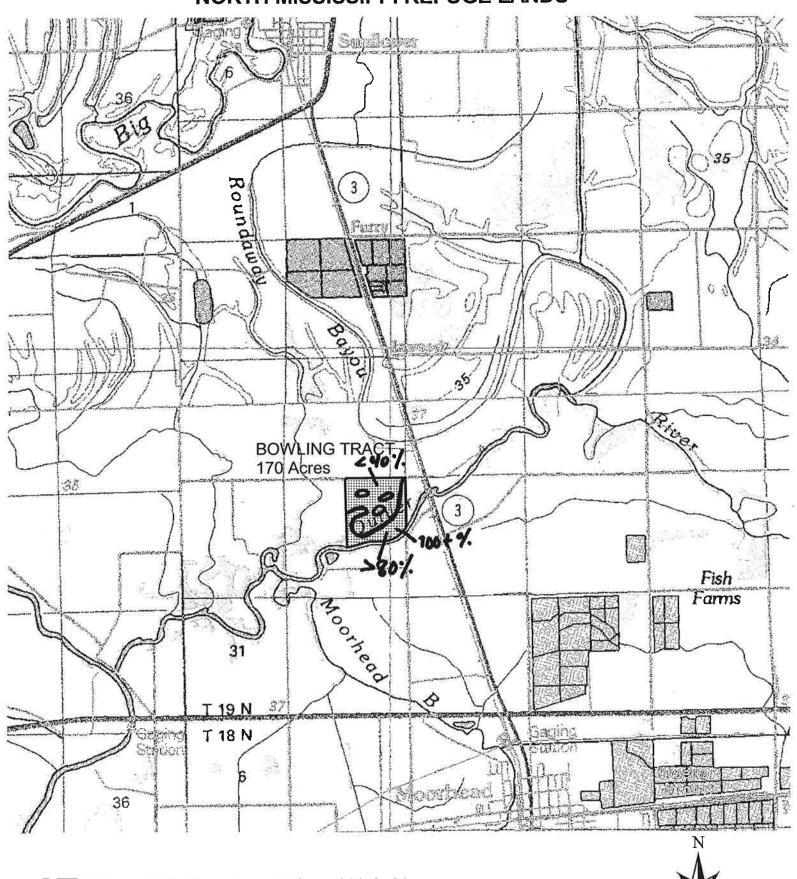
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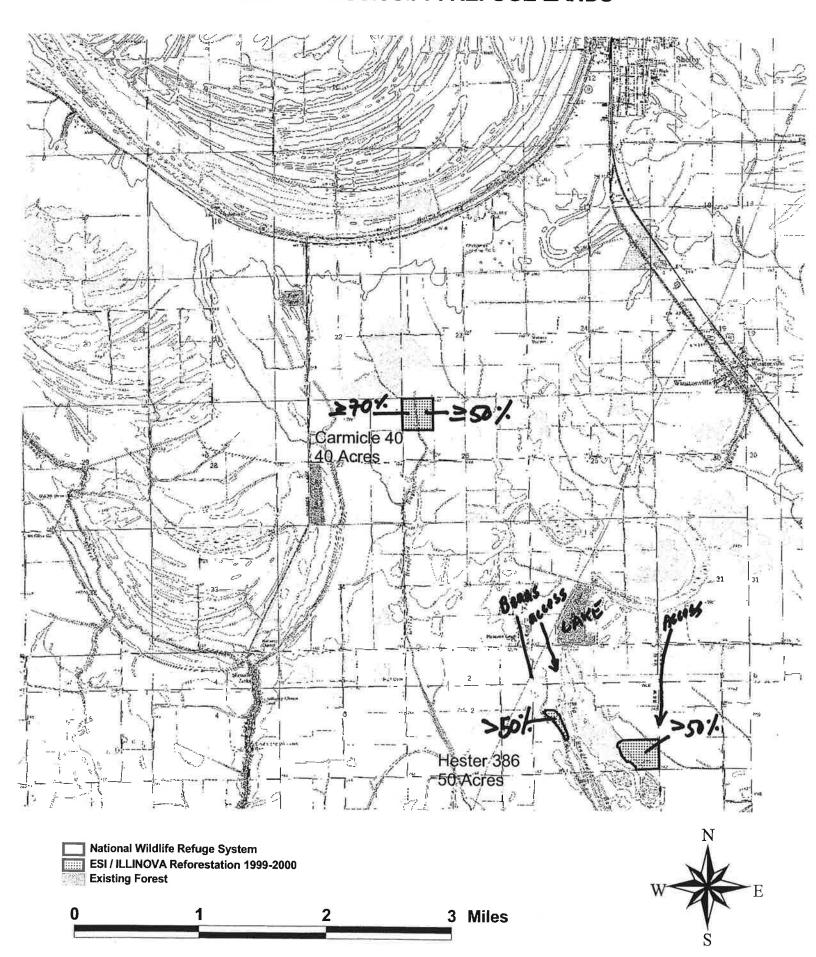


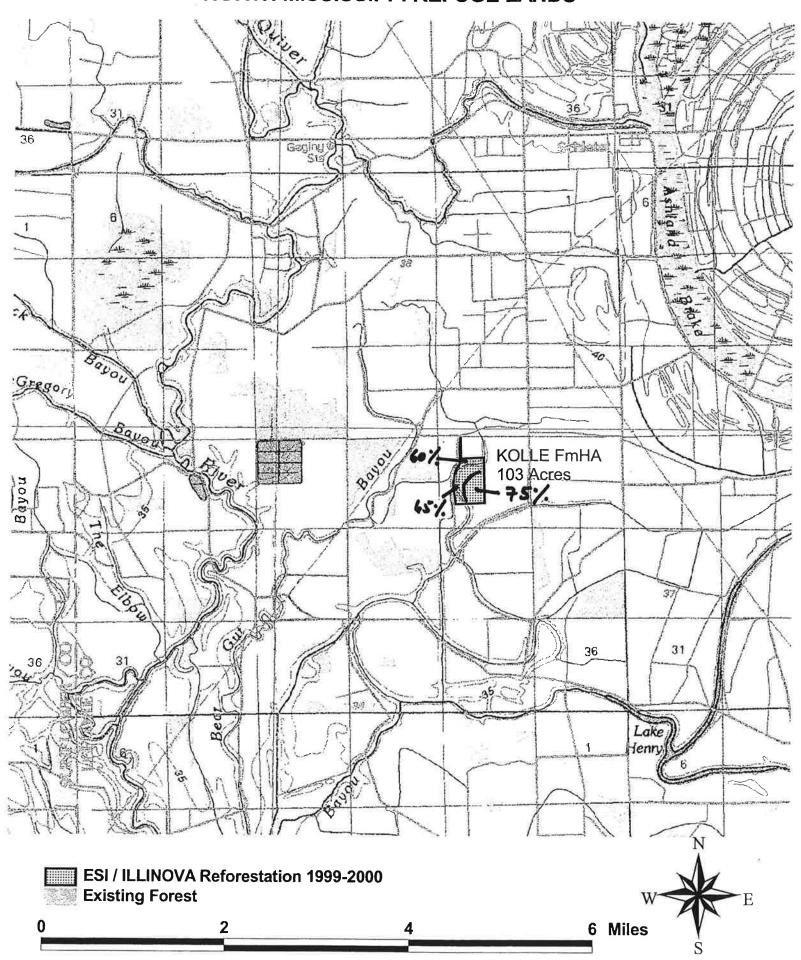
ESI / ILLINOVA Reforestation 1999-2000
Existing Forest

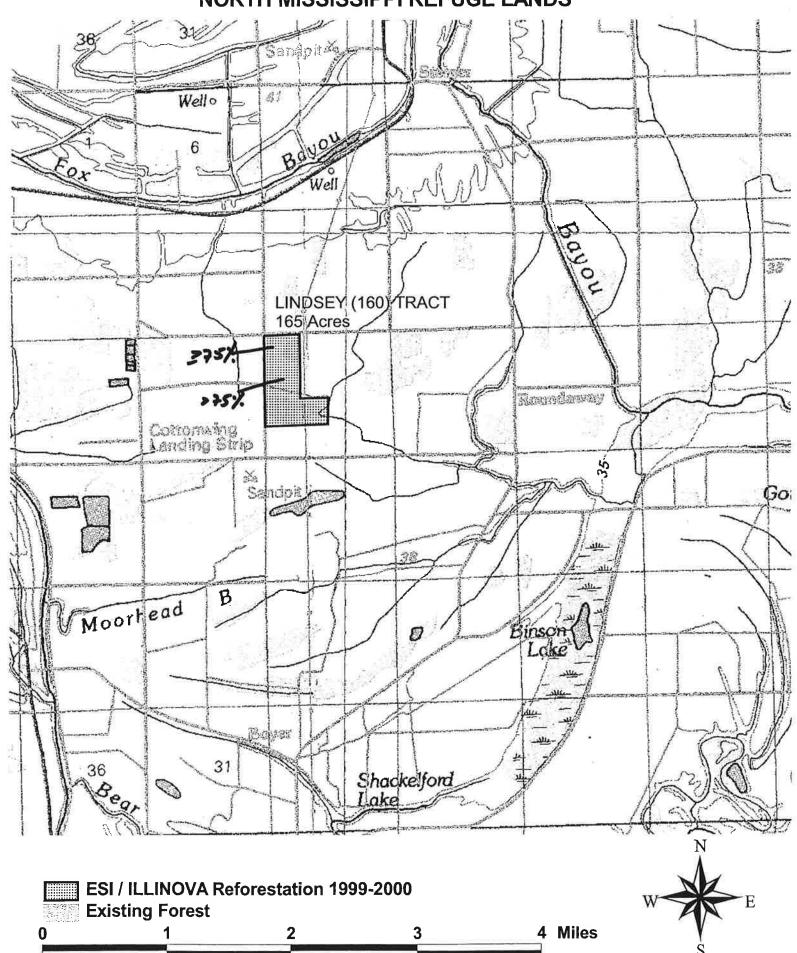
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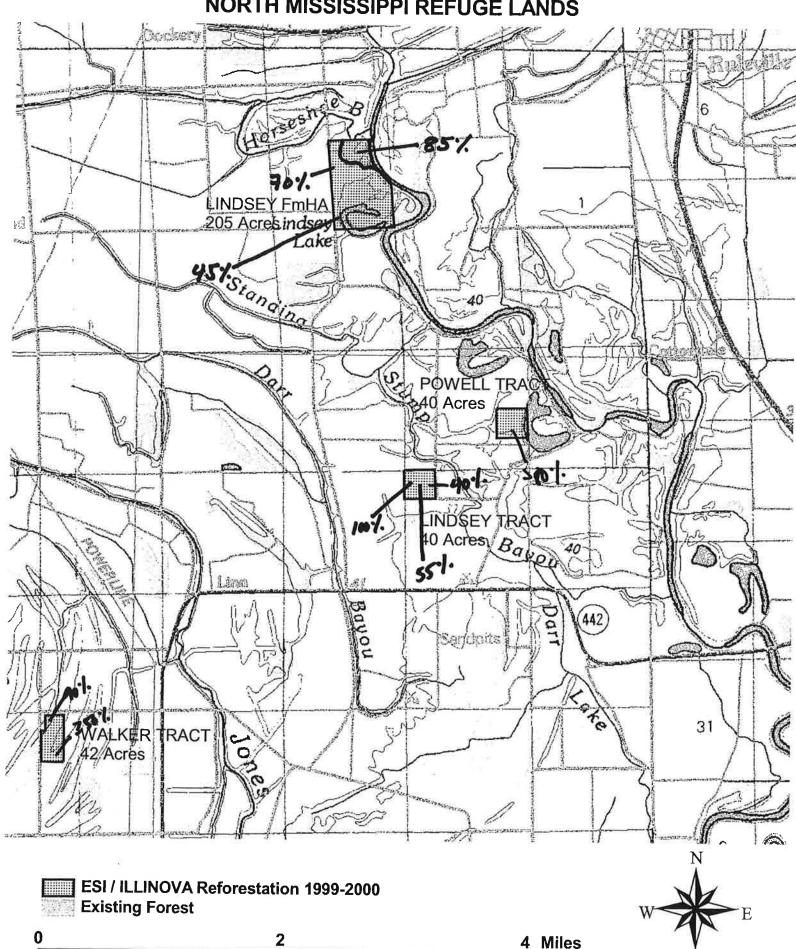


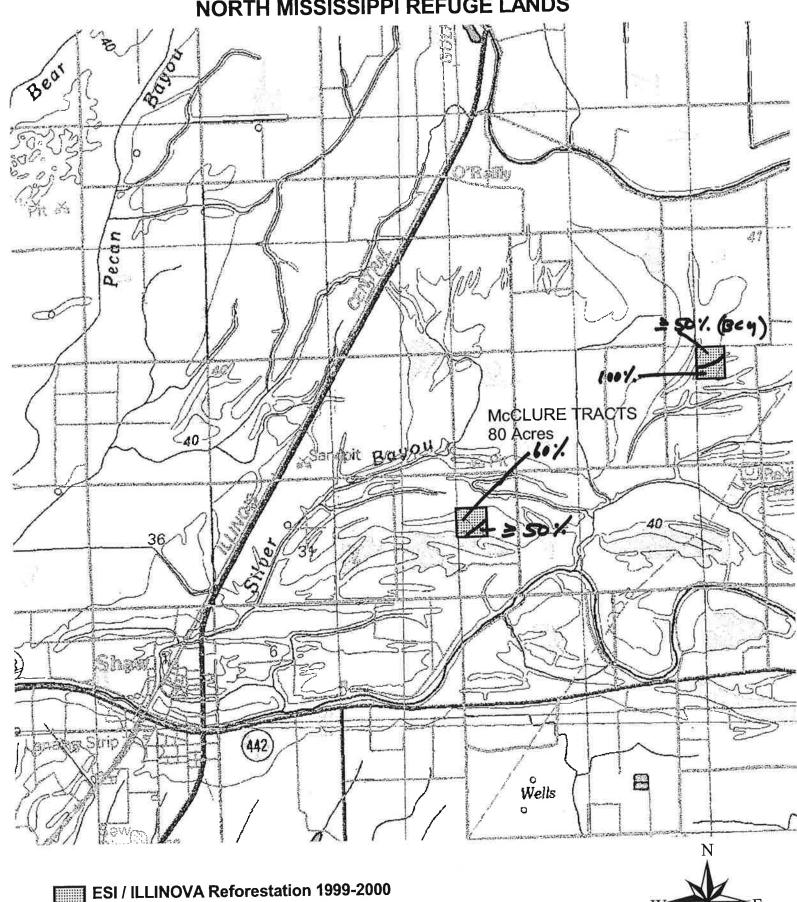
4 Miles







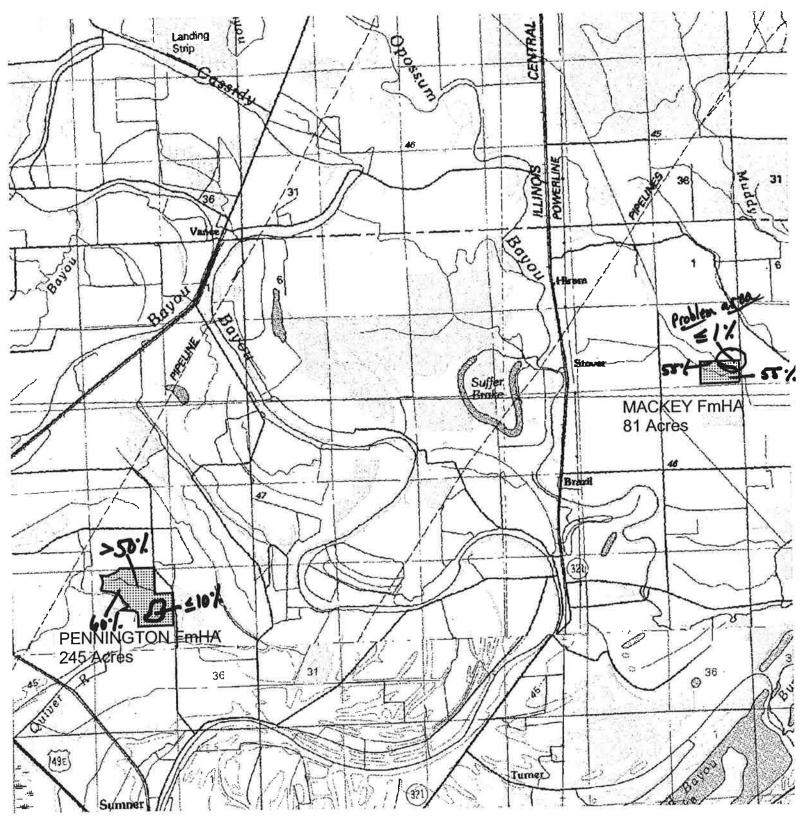


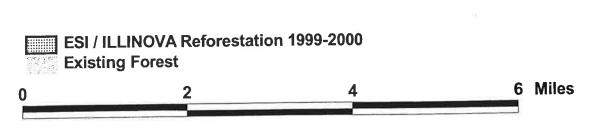


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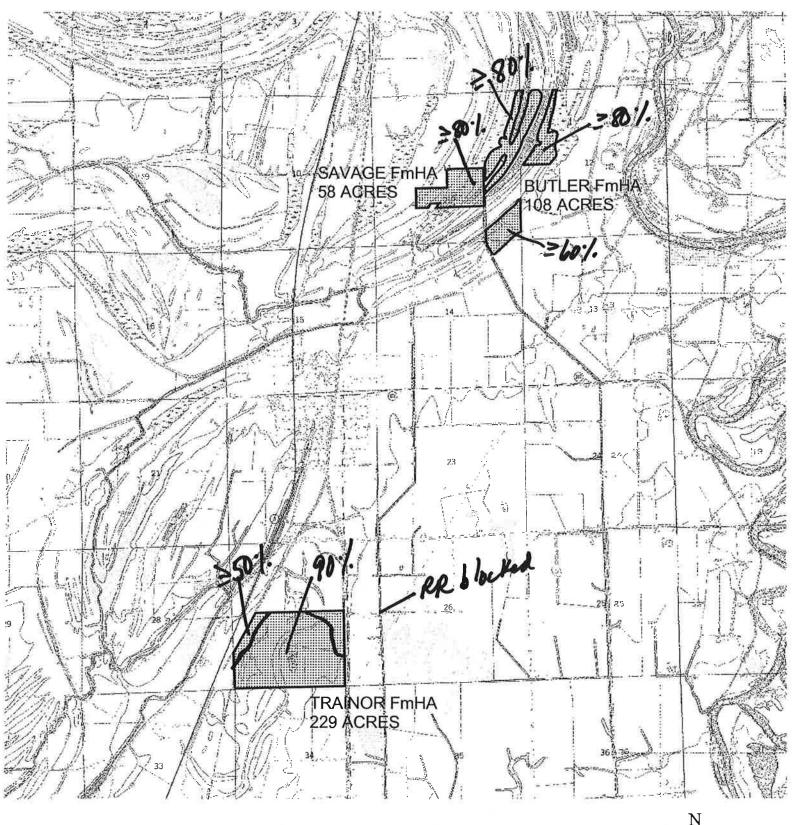
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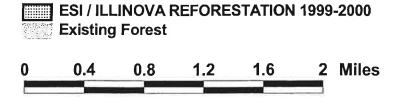
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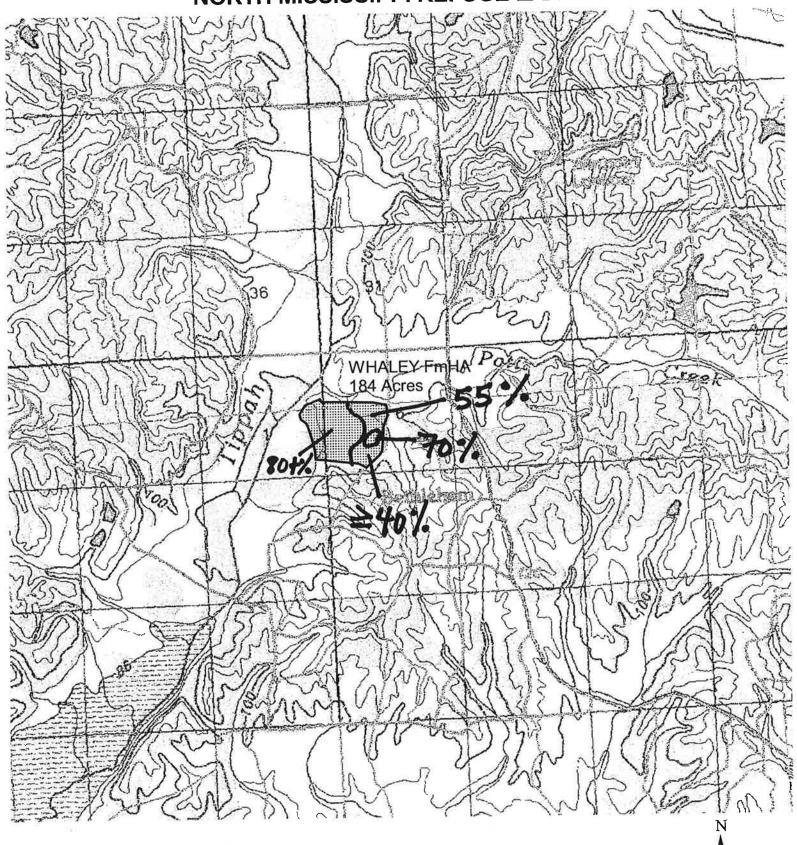








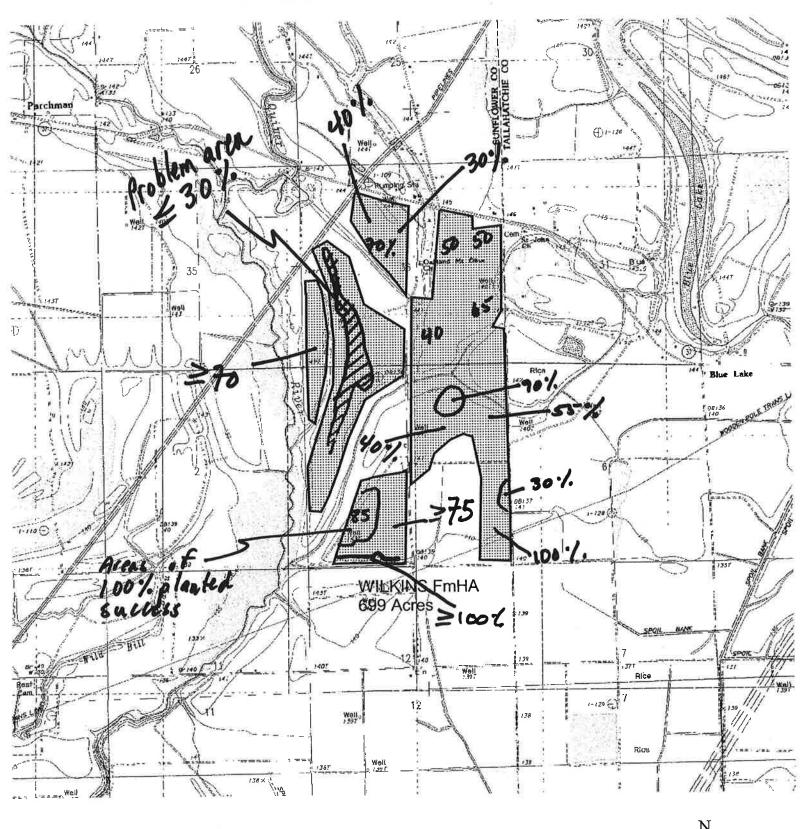




ESI / ILLINOVA Reforestation 1999-2000
Existing Forest

0 0.9 1.8 2.7 Miles





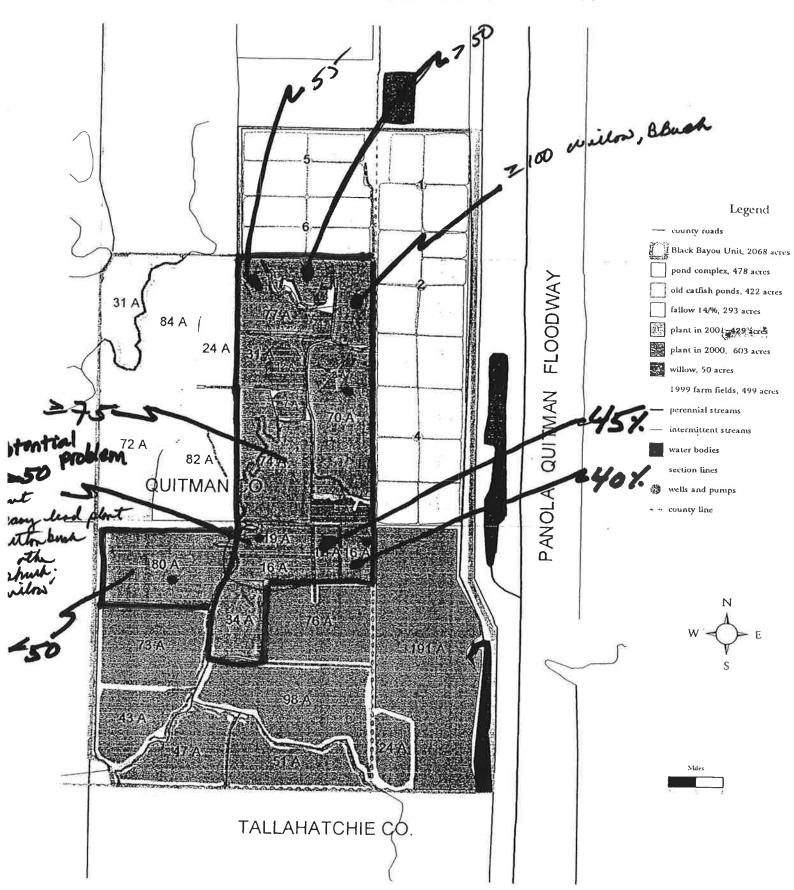
2 Miles



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Field map numbers 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	90% 80% 90% 75% 75% 95% 70% 45% 85% < 5%	where most hardwood regeneration occurs, the water is as deep as 14 inches. The southern portion of the area is void of hardwood regeneration and consists instead of cattails and bullgrass. Remaining areas are excellently stocked, with some trees achieving 4+ ft heights. Species observed include Nuttall, water and willow oaks, persimmon, green ash bald cypress and cherrybark oak.
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Balducci Refer to map East West	< 10% ≥ 60%	The easternmost Balducci is an extremely hydric site and is nearly void of regeneration in the lower areas. Successful regeneration may depend on bald cypress and/or willow plantings
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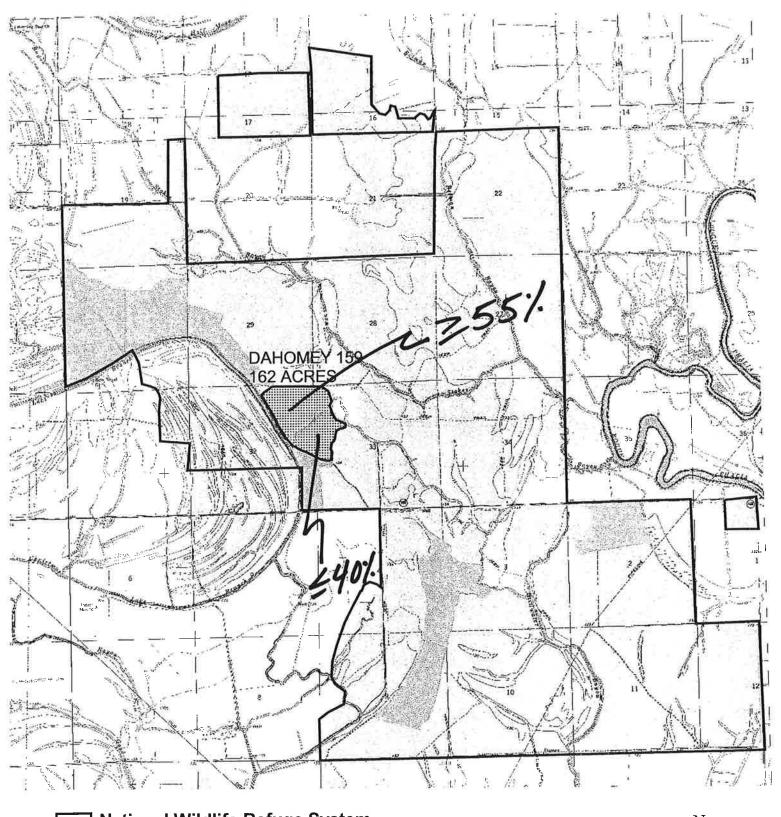
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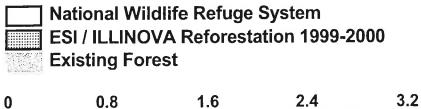
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Powell	≥ 50%	Heavy eastern bacharris component.
Ray	≥ 55%	Best regeneration located on westernmost portion of tract. Some naturalized pine present.
Savage	≥ 80%	Very heavy stocking of both planted and naturalized species. Species include oaks, sweetgum, green ash, cottonwood and persimmon. This property is unposted planted area best accessed from the north.
Starr 350	45%	Regeneration seemed predominately natural regeneration. Species included sweetgum, winged elm green ash, willow, willow and Nuttall oaks. Some naturalized pine present.

## ESI / ILLINOVA REFORESTATION PROJECT DAHOMEY NWR

NO. MISS

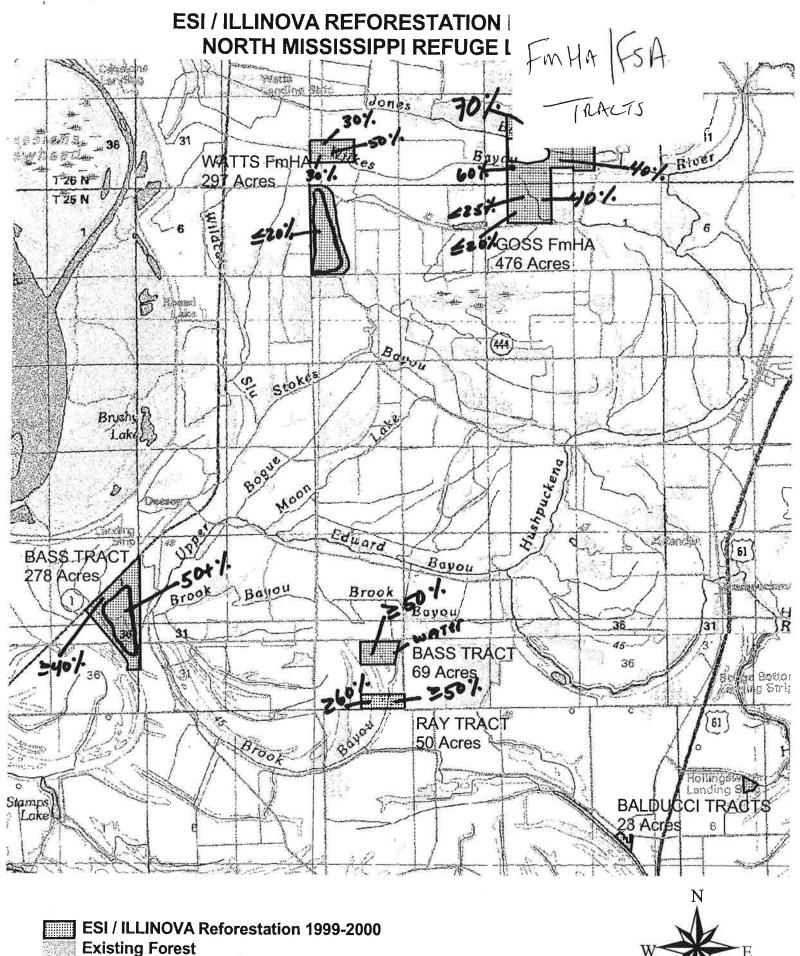




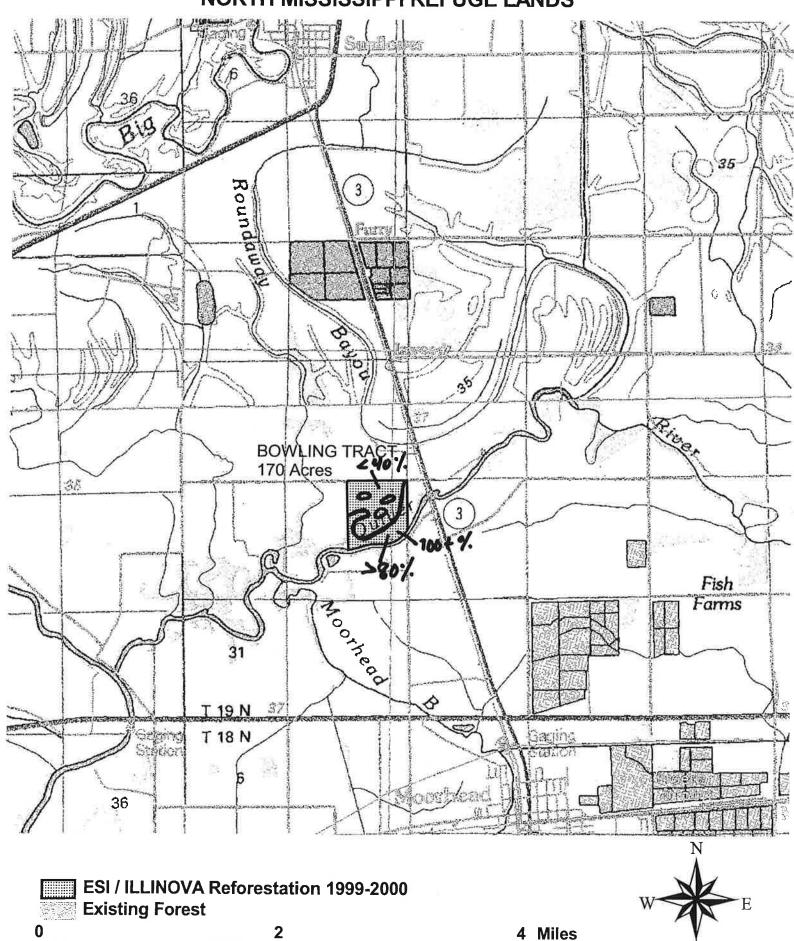
W E

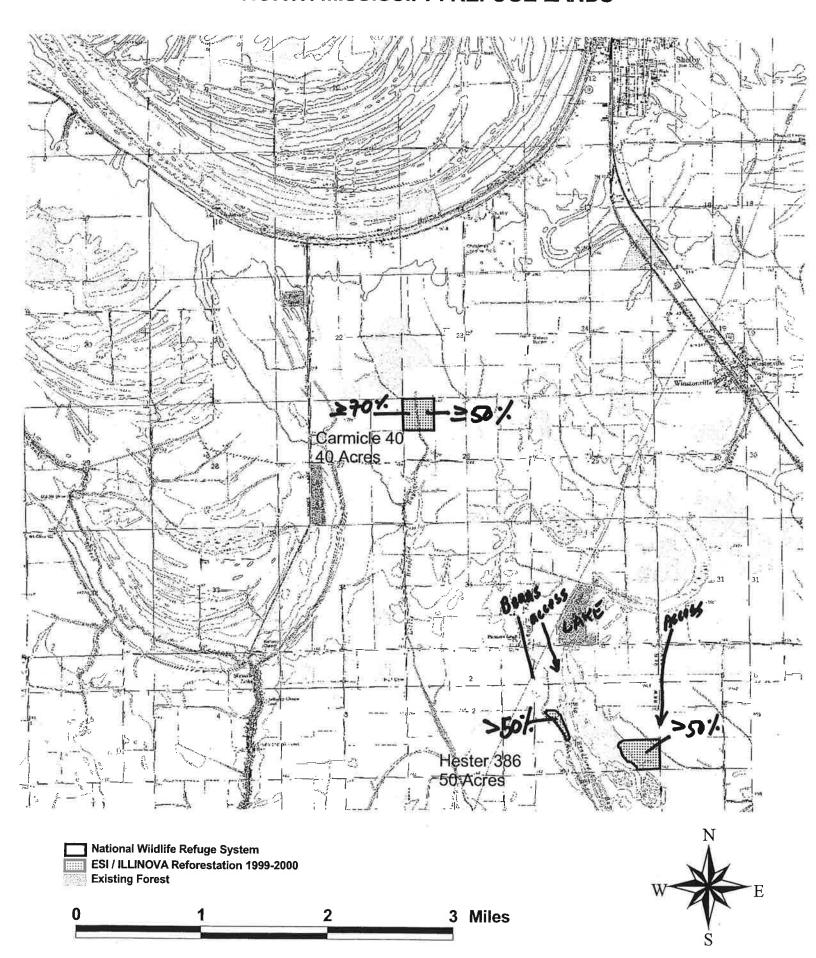
4 Miles

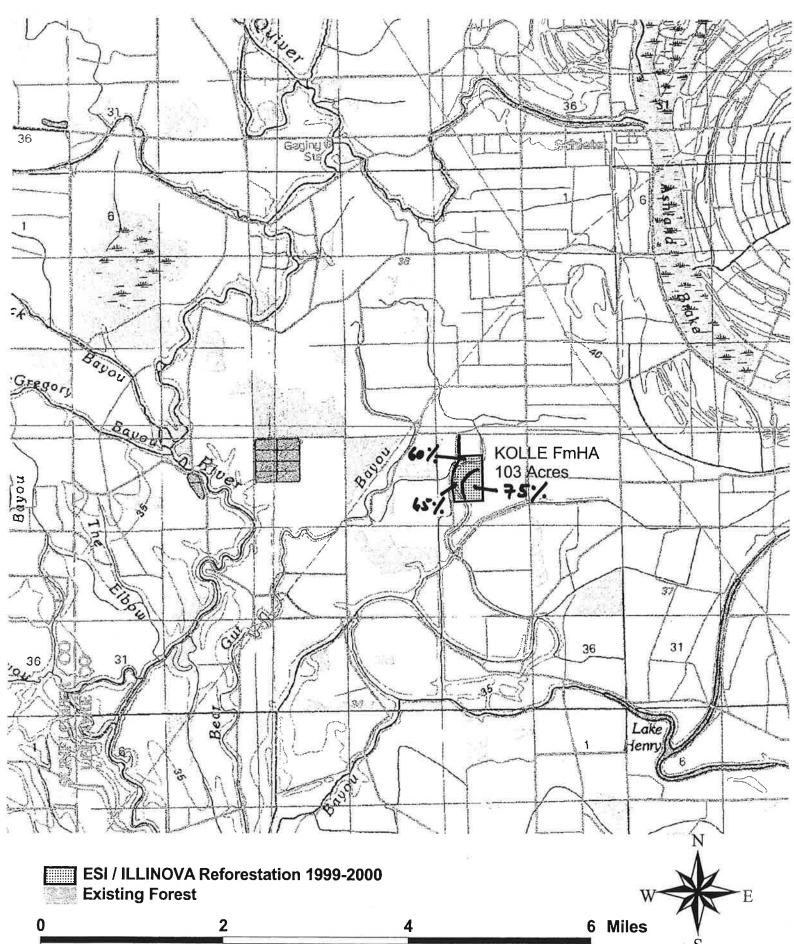
#### **ESI / ILLINOVA REFORESTATION PROJECT** NORTH MISSISSIPPI REFUGE LANDS Migha Hardtime Well Lake TALLAHATCH E NWR BEAR LAKE 759 Acres 95% 43 ss /. (5 STATEN TRAC Well 21 Acres Wis key Landing Strip Blackhawk Bayou Tippo Mound Bayou National Wildlife Refuge System ESI / ILLINOVA Reforestation 1999-2000 Existing Forest 2 3 4 Miles

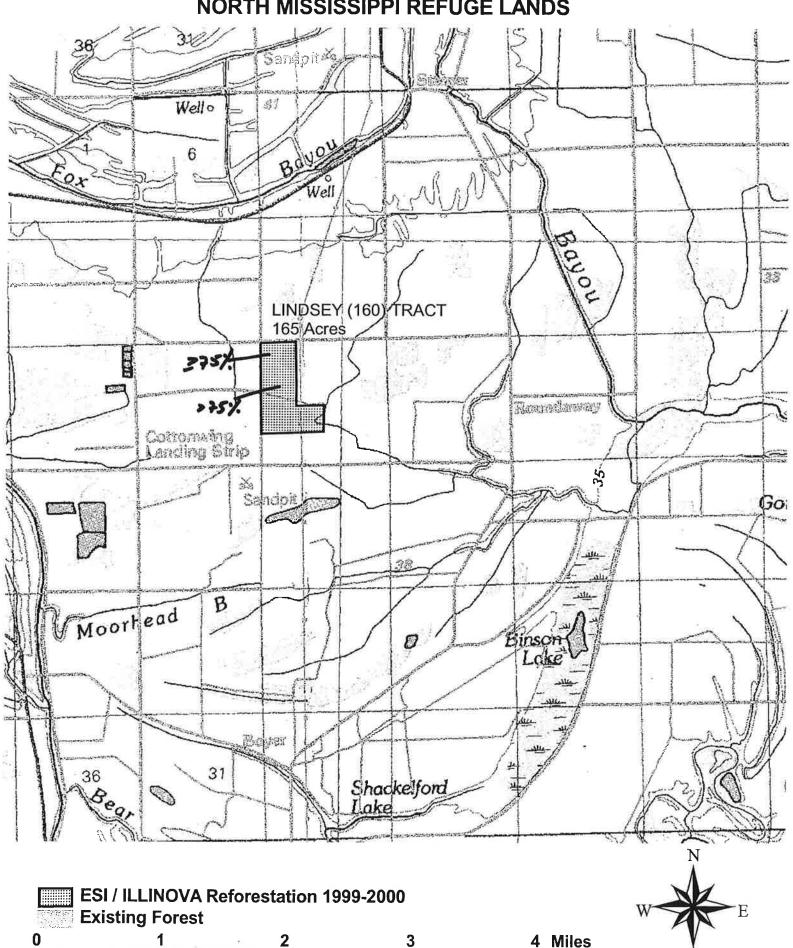


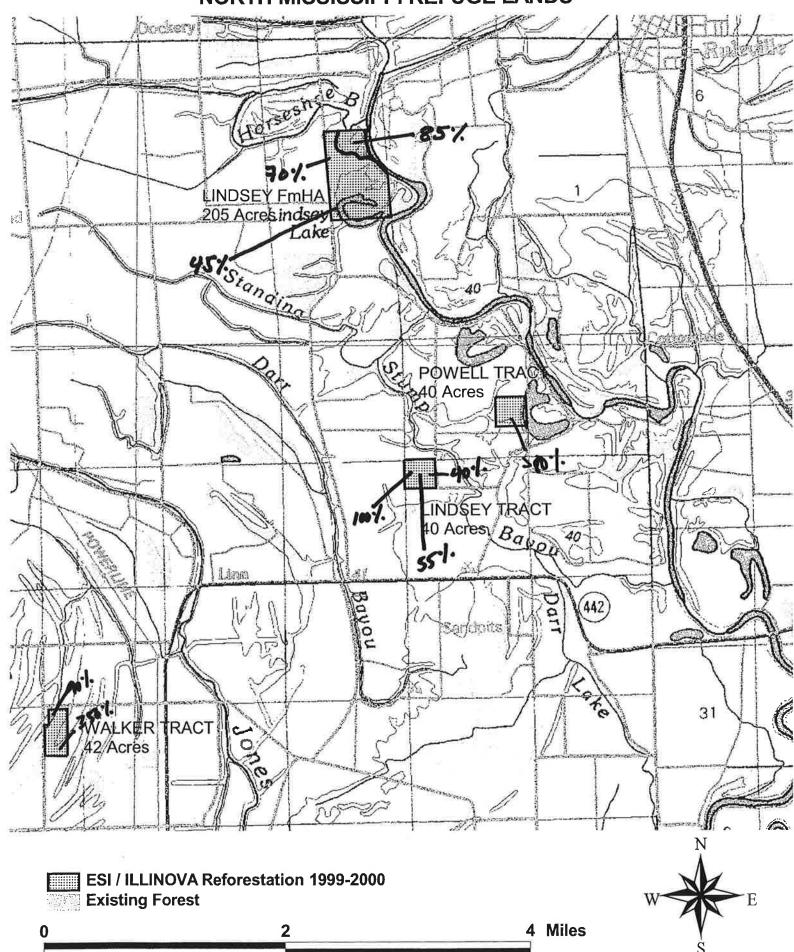
3 6 Miles

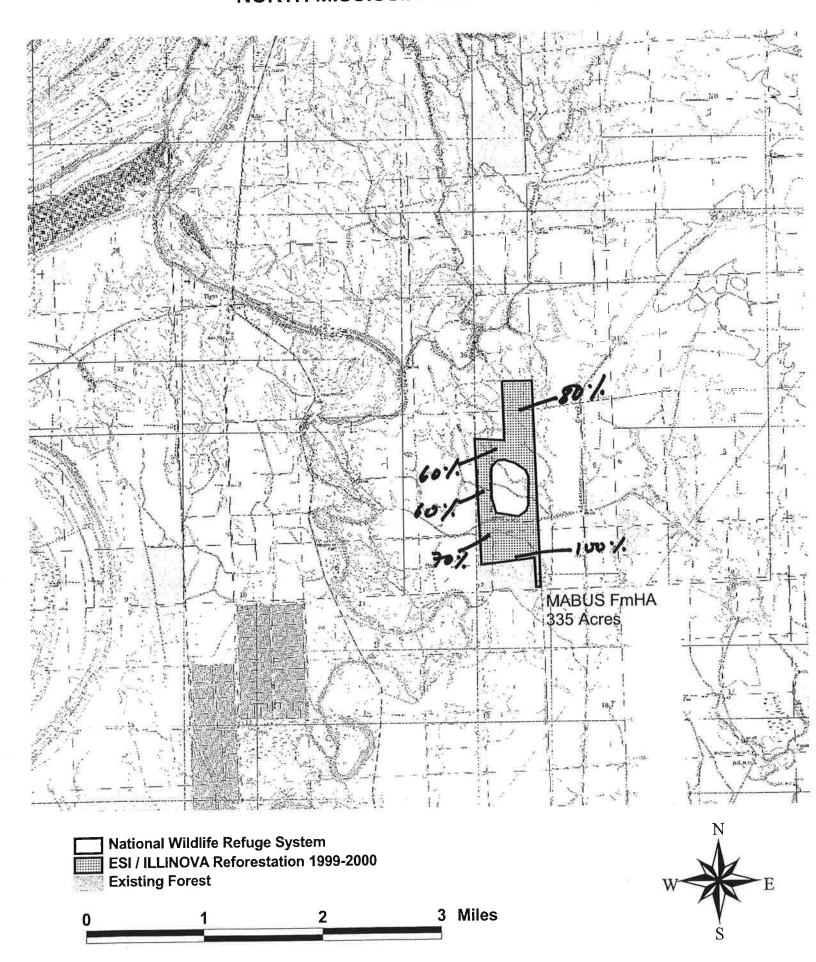


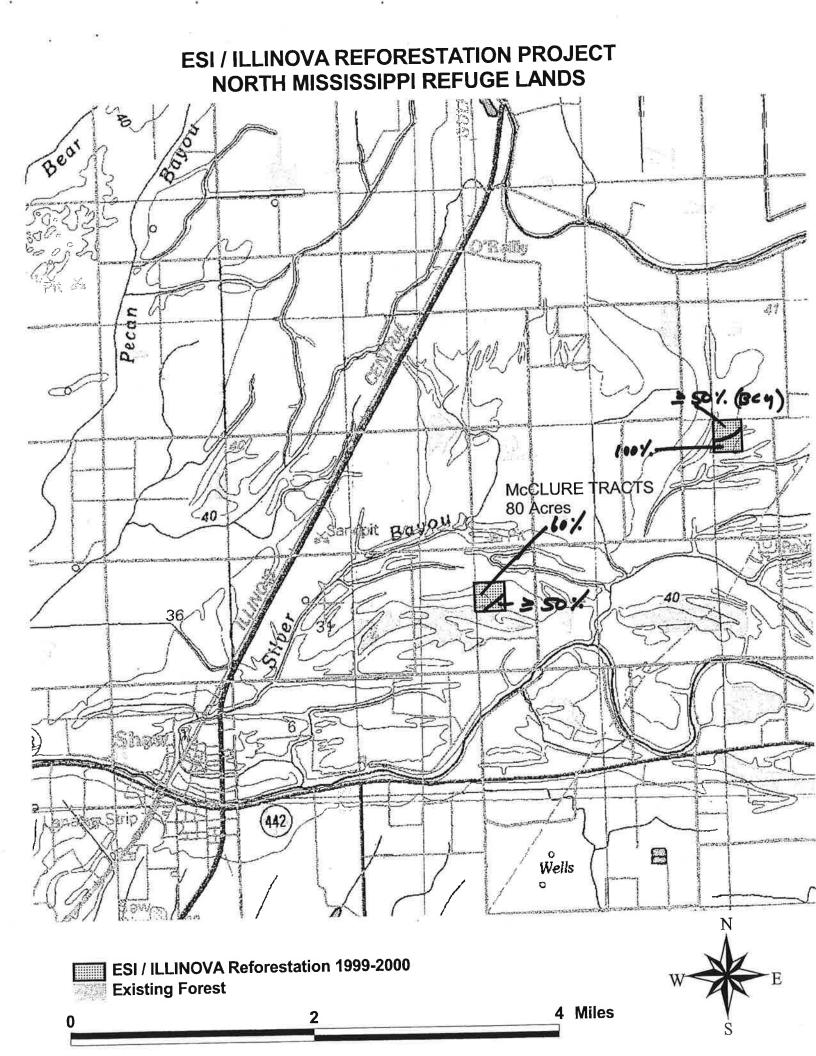


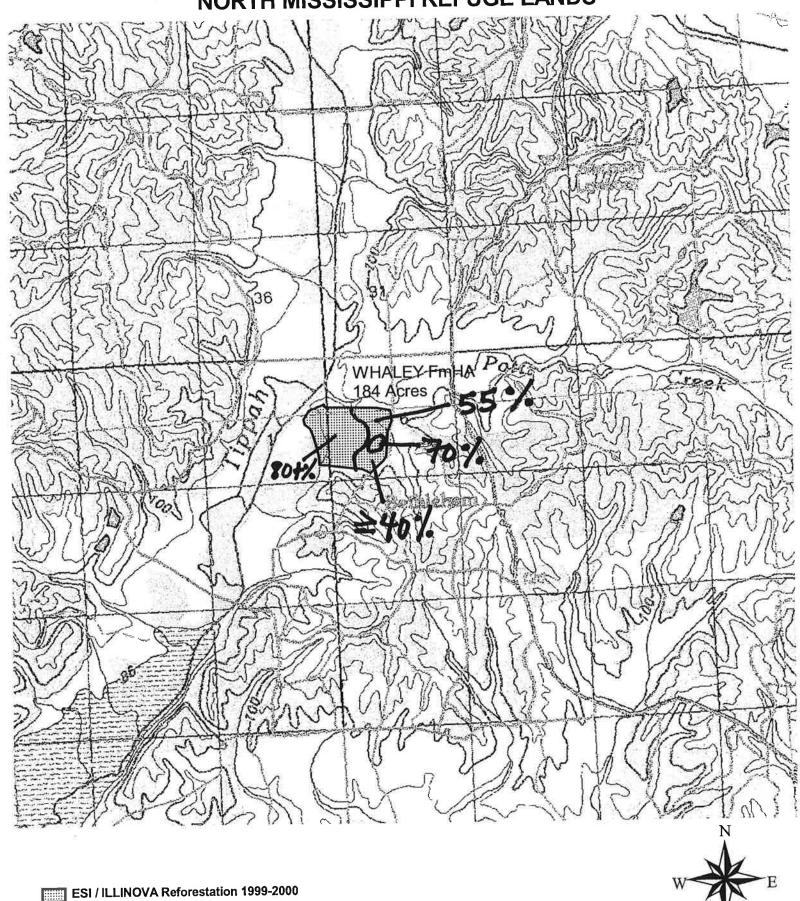












2.7 Miles

1.8

**Existing Forest** 

0.9

# COLDWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE QUITMAN, AND TALLAHATCHIE COUNTIES, MISSISSIPPI PROPOSED TREE PLANTING SCHEDULE FOR 2000-2001

